

VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP (1-2) Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge is looking for 1-2 volunteers to assist with a breeding population study of the **Bristle-thighed Curlew** from **25 April to 17 July 2010**. This is a great opportunity for a shorebird enthusiast to work on a rare and unique species on its breeding grounds in western Alaska. This will be the first year in a three-year project and will involve surveying curlews (as well as other birds) at point counts, mapping breeding territories, searching for and monitoring nests and broods, capture and color banding adults, documenting predators, and gathering information about habitat use. The field site is at a remote wilderness location in the southern Nulato Hills and is accessible only by helicopter. The crew is expected to stay at this site for 10-12 weeks. Working conditions include extensive hiking over tundra-covered hills, dense clouds of mosquitoes, and possible encounters with bears. Temperatures can range from 20-70s, snow is possible, and winds can exceed 50 mph. When not in the field, assistants will help with field logistics, gear maintenance, and data entry. To qualify, you must be available no later than 25 April, have knowledge of shorebird identification and behavior, be in excellent physical condition, and be able to get along in a remote, no-amenities field camp. Initial training (bear safety; firearms safety; aircraft safety) is mandatory. Required field equipment is provided. Benefits include airfare from a US city, lodging (bunkhouse or tent), and food while in the field or in Bethel. To apply - send detailed cover letter, resume (include name /contact for 3 references) to Kristine Sowl, kristine_sowl@fws.gov OR Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Box 346, Bethel, AK 99559, postmark by March 1, 2010.